



Communication

FEMA & FCC Unveil New Tip Sheet for Consumers on How to Communicate During Disasters

Based on the recent earthquake and hurricane events, FEMA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) partnered to issue a list of tips on communicating during disasters. The tips are available at: www.ready.gov/tech.

Research

The Anthrax Attacks 10 Years Later

Authors in the Annals of Internal Medicine give their thoughts on how prepared the United States is ten years after the anthrax attacks of 2001. They argue that physicians hold a critical role in surveillance and identification of an anthrax threat. They also say syndromic surveillance was ineffective in 2001 when attempting to identify anthrax as the bioterrorist threat. The full article is available [online](#).

NOAA Report: NWS Central Region Service Assessment Joplin, Missouri, Tornado – May 22, 2011

The National Oceanic and Aeronautics Administration (NOAA) released a report that analyzes the forecasting and warning services in the wake of the Joplin, MO tornado disaster. The main finding is that many communities receive several tornado warnings that turn out to be false alarms. These false alarms cause alarm fatigue where citizens wait until the threat is real before evacuating their homes. The NOAA believes that alarm fatigue contributed to the large numbers affected by the disaster. The full report is available [online](#).

Study: Few States Advance Ethics Guidelines for Pandemics

Researchers at the UNC Gillings School of Public Health found that most states did not include [ethical considerations](#) such as the needs of minority populations or issues around quarantine in their pandemic plans. Six states did have their

own guidelines for ethical decision making and three others referred to CDC guidelines.

Regional News

Michigan School Disaster Preparedness and Response Curriculum Released

The National Health Security Strategy reinforces the importance and outlines activities to achieve community resiliency, creating a culture of healthy individuals, families and communities. To build a Nation that is prepared to

Institute of Medicine Report Released: Pre-positioning Antibiotics for Anthrax

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) examined the potential uses, benefits, and disadvantages of various strategies for pre-positioning antibiotics. While pre-positioning strategies have the potential to reduce the time between



an anthrax attack and when an individual receives antibiotics, this potential benefit should be weighed against increased costs of associated with pre-positioning medical countermeasures, a lower degree of flexibility to change plans following an attack if needed, and possible health risks involved with home antibiotic storage. The IOM committee developed a decision-aiding framework to help state, local, and tribal health officials determine which strategy, if any, would benefit their community. The report is available [online](#).

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!
October 21, 2011

respond to and recover from natural or manmade disasters, communities need to know what to do and how to care for themselves during emergencies.

In 2007, Michigan embarked on a multi-agency project aimed at building resiliency within our children. Utilizing funding from the Homeland Security Grant Program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Hospital Preparedness Program developed a K-12th grade School Preparedness and Response Curriculum.



The purpose of the School Disaster Preparedness and Response Curriculum is to support citizen engagement and participation in preparedness through student learning activities. These include understanding and developing emergency skills, family emergency preparedness plans and kits, awareness of common hazards and disasters, developing coping skills after a disaster or emergency, recognizing helpful or harmful influences, preventing and identifying dangerous situations, and respect and citizenship.

Collaboration between the Michigan Departments of Community Health, Education, and State Police have lead to the successful formation of a draft all-hazards curriculum. Educators will be provided with the tools to teach children how to prevent, protect, respond and recover from natural and manmade disasters. This includes empowering children with the knowledge and skills to make smart decisions before, during and after an incident, and ensure all families have disaster plans. If children are not prepared, their families will not be prepared. This could negatively impact response whereby affecting overall community resiliency. School lessons have been developed and vetted by a diverse group of stakeholders that are aligned with the National Health Education Standards and Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations.

By including the School Preparedness and Response Curriculum in the Michigan Model for Health, these lessons will be taught in over 95% of Michigan's public schools, 200 private schools and are accessible to 32 states, which currently utilize the content curriculum within the Michigan Model. This nationally acclaimed sequential health curriculum has provided comprehensive health education for school-aged children since 1984. The program facilitates skill-based learning through lessons that include a variety of teaching techniques, skill development and practice, and building positive lifestyle behaviors in students and families. Integration with the Michigan Model for Health ensures successful replication of the Michigan Preparedness and Response Curriculum. Activities are not Michigan specific as they allow students to explore the hazards and vulnerabilities within their own community.

Each public and private school in Michigan has been provided with a curriculum to ensure that communities will be better prepared through school initiated activities. As children complete activities to improve safety habits, this will begin to build a generation and culture of preparedness. Homework will ensure that families have developed preparedness plans and kits. Working in collaboration with the Michigan Model for Health, online training modules are available for educators and administrators to ensure awareness and effective teaching of the curriculum. These can be found on MI-TRAIN at <https://mi.train.org>.

For more information on the School Disaster Preparedness and Response Curriculum visit the Educational Materials Center at: www.emc.cmich.edu

National News

FDA Clears First Single Use Face Mask for Children

The [FDA recently approved](#) the Kimberly-Clark single use pediatric/child face mask for children aged five through twelve, to prevent the spread of airborne viruses and other pathogens.

National Preparedness Goal, First Edition, Released

The National Preparedness Goal is the first deliverable required under Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8: National Preparedness. The National Preparedness Goal sets the vision for preparedness nationwide and identifies the core capabilities and capability targets necessary to achieve that vision across the five mission areas: prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. FEMA will coordinate closely with partners throughout the homeland security and emergency management community, the private and non-profit sectors and with the public to implement the requirements included in PPD-8. More [information](#) as well as the [PDF](#) of the National Preparedness Goal are available online.

Traces of Japan Radioactivity in U.S. Rain

Low levels of radioactivity showed up in rainwater in northern California two weeks after the Japan nuclear disaster in March but soon returned to normal, a [U.S. study](#) says. The detected levels of radioactive isotopes, caesium, iodine and tellurium, were very small and posed no risk to the public, according to the findings of research funded by the U.S. Departments of Energy and Homeland Security.



Strategic National Stockpile Still Lacking Key Medical Treatments

While there have been significant advances over the past ten years, the Strategic National Stockpile still lacks treatments for [certain diseases or hazards](#), such as radiation events. To help address these issues, the HHS Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) is focusing on developing countermeasures that would be effective against multiple diseases.

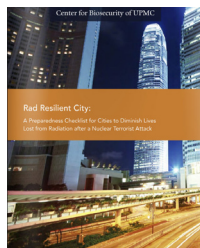
Challenges for the Food and Agriculture Sector in Responding to Potential Terrorist Attacks and Natural Disasters

The Government Accountability Office has issued a report on the ability of the food and agricultural sector to respond to threats, stating that "there is no centralized coordination to oversee the federal government's overall progress implementing the nation's food and agriculture defense policy." View a summary of the report [here](#).

Tools & Resources

Ready Georgia Mobile App

The Georgia Department of Public Health has partnered with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency to release a new Ready Georgia [mobile app](#) for both iPhone and Android devices. The free app provides current location-based weather and hazard information, along with customized emergency preparedness checklists.



Rad Resilient City Initiative

The Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center recently launched the [Rad Resilient City Initiative](#) including the Rad Resilient City Preparedness Checklist, a tool that converts the latest federal guidance and technical reports into clear, actionable steps for communities to take to protect residents from the fallout exposure following a nuclear detonation.

Coping in Hard Times: Fact Sheet for Parents

The Terrorism and Disaster Network Committee has released the [third fact sheet](#) in the series on managing stress in difficult economic times. Coping in Hard Times: Fact Sheet for Parents helps parents talk with their spouses and children about how challenging financial circumstances can affect their sense of safety, ability to calm, self and community efficacy, connectedness, and hope. In addition, the fact sheet gives practical ways to help families address problems, stay connected, network, and cope better during economic downturns.

Newly Released SOPHE Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Website

SOPHE recently announced the launch of its new Environmental Health and Emergency [Preparedness Website](#), which is aimed at informing health education and promotion professionals on the latest in the fields of environmental health and emergency preparedness.

Training & Events

Community Webinar on Continuity and Emergency Planning in Our Nation's School Systems

[Webinar \(archived\)](#)

Speakers: Madeline Sullivan (US Dept of Education) and Bob Spears (Los Angeles Unified School District). The FEMA National Continuity Program (NCP) invites you to the fourth installment of the Continuity Webinar Series titled "Continuity and Emergency Planning in Our Nation's School Systems".

Date/Time	Event	Location
October 13-14, 2011	Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference More information is available online.	Grand Rapids, MI
October 19-21, 2011	2011 ASTHO Annual Meeting Key note speakers: Dr. Tom Frieden, CDC Director and Dr. Mary Wakefield, HRSA Administrator. Sessions include: a storytelling workshop, food safety, preparedness, integration of public health and healthcare, injury prevention and more.	Portland, OR
November 3, 2011 Registration Deadline: October 21st	Maximizing State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Situational Awareness Synergies through Emerging Technologies The Fusion Branch within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response is hosting a forum on emerging technologies and tools utilized by state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) organizations and entities for biosurveillance and situational awareness. The forum aims to illustrate the existing forward moving synergistic solutions for data sharing between local and federal entities.	Washington, DC

November 3, 2011, 11:00am – 5:00 pm Testing from 5:00-5:30 pm	<u>Basic Disaster Life Support Training</u> Region 2 South Healthcare Coalition is sponsoring a six-hour Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) course on November 3rd 2011. The course is designed to develop commonality of approach and language, and to improve the care and coordination of response in WMD disaster and public health emergencies. The course is geared towards physicians, registered nurses, hospital administrators, security, safety officers, EMS providers, emergency management, firefighters, hazmat, law enforcement, dispatchers, city officials, public health, and healthcare public information officers. Registration required: Log into the Share Point site (http://portal.2south.org) with username "2south@2south.org" and password "2south". (This login information is generic for training registration purposes only). Once logged in, click on "Training", then "Basic Disaster Life Support – 3 Nov 2011" in the left menu bar, and then click on "Add a Document" – at which time a new registration form will be presented. Once the form is completed, click "Submit" button located on the page.	Wayne County, MI
January 17–19, 2012	<u>International Disaster Conference and Exposition</u> Public and Private sectors engage in problem solving, planning and preparation, discussing relevant issues dealing with Emergency Management, Homeland Security, First Response, Loss Mitigation, Business Continuity, and more.	New Orleans, LA
March 21–25, 2012	<u>American Counseling Association 2012 Annual Conference</u> With focus on disaster mental health, social media, military members and their families, and the revised edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), DSM-V, this conference will feature pre-conference learning institutes and conference education sessions.	San Francisco, CA
May 21–25, 2012	<u>2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness, and Response Training Summit</u> This summit provides opportunities to advance their knowledge, skills, and abilities in disaster preparedness and response in order to improve their capability to deliver public health and medical care services during disasters.	Nashville, TN



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This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U90/TP517018-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.